

other sites in Hyderabad and Government of Andhra Pradesh has allotted land for the purpose;

(d) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the AAI to provide infrastructural facilities at the new sites; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken by Government on the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) About 97 acres of land belonging of Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Hyderabad airport are under encroachment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A rehabilitation plan was finalised in 1994 at an estimated cost of Rs. 9.63 crores out of which Rs. 4.58 crores was agreed to be paid by AAI. AAI had deposited Rs. 1.25 crores in May, 1994 for this purpose. However, the State Government later informed that the cost of rehabilitation had increased and requested AAI to contribute Rs. 17.74 crores towards the cost of houses and other amenities. Since the contribution requested from AAI is too high and there is no immediate requirement of the land for operational purposes, AAI is not in a position to bear this high additional cost. Moreover, Government has already approved the proposal of the State Government for setting up of a new airport of international standards at Shamsabad.

Direct air services to Tirupati

4103. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide direct air services to Tirupati from all the metropolitan cities of the country within a time-frame; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) At present, following scheduled air services are available to/from Tirupati:—

Indian Airlines:

Chennai-Tirupathi-Hyderabad and Return 2 per week

Jet Airways:

Hyderabad-Tirupathi-Hyderabad Daily

Airlines are free to operate on any route/connect any place as per their commercial judgement subject of course to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes.

Expansion of runway at Tirupati and Vijayawada Airports

4104. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Airports Authority of India has acquired additional land for expansion of runway for operation of big aircrafts at Tirupati and Vijayawada Airports in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present status of work relating to expansion of runway at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) State Government of Andhra Pradesh has handed over approximately 69 acres of land at Vijayawada and 58 acres of land at Tirupati to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for expansion of runway for operation of bigger aircraft.

(c) The work of extension of runway from 6000' to 7500' at Tirupati has already been completed.

In Vijayawada Airport, AAI has strengthened the existing runway and has also constructed a new apron with link taxiway for operation of B-737 class of aircraft. AAI has also plans for extension of runway to 7500' subject to firm commitment for operation of flights from Airlines and release of balance Rs. 4.00 crores as a grant from the State Government and firm commitment for operation of flights from Airlines.